



#### **Vision**

*MPL is an anchor institution that helps build healthy families and vibrant neighborhoods – the foundation of a strong Milwaukee.*

#### **Mission**

*Inspiration starts here – we help people read, learn, and connect.*

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## **BOARD OF TRUSTEES REGULAR MEETING AGENDA**

**Tuesday, May 27, 2025**

**4:00 p.m.**

**Central Library  
Rotary Club of Milwaukee Community Room  
814 W. Wisconsin Avenue  
Milwaukee, WI 53233**

### **ANNUAL MEETING**

#### **WELCOME & ROLL CALL**

4:00 – 4:05

#### **PUBLIC COMMENT**

4:05 – 4:15

#### **CONSENT AGENDA**

4:15 – 4:20

Attachment A, page 3

1. **Regular Board Meeting Minutes, April 22, 2025.**
2. **Committee Reports**
  - a. Finance & Personnel Committee – April 22, 2025
  - b. Building & Development Committee – May 1, 2025
  - c. Library Services & Programs Committee – May 7, 2025
3. **Administrative Reports.**
  - a. Financial Report
  - b. Library Director's Report
  - c. Statistics

#### **REPORTS**

4:20 – 4:30

4. **Milwaukee County Federated Library System (MCFLS) Board Meeting.** Trustee Kathleen Vincent will report on the May 12, 2025 meeting.

#### **NEW BUSINESS**

4:30 – 5:00

5. **Annual Bylaws Review.** The Board will review the current bylaws. There are no changes proposed at this time. The most recent revisions were approved by the Board on June 28, 2022.

Attachment B, page 34

MPL BOARD AGENDA

05/27/2025

P. 1

6. **Summer Reading Program.** Library Public Services Area Manager (Education & Outreach Services) Kelly Wochinske will share information about the 2025 Summer Reading Program.
7. **Annual Report.** Library Director Joan Johnson will present a preliminary draft of MPL's annual report.

#### **CLOSING REMARKS**

5:00 – 5:10

8. **Closing Remarks and Adjournment.**

**REMINDER:** Next scheduled meetings are:

*June 4, 2024 Innovation & Strategy Committee – Virtual Meeting, 9:00 a.m.*

*June 6, 2024 Building & Development Committee – Virtual Meeting, 8:00 a.m.*

*June 12, 2024 Executive Committee – Virtual Meeting, 4:00 p.m.*

*June 25, 2024 Board Meeting – East Branch, 4:00 p.m.*

#### **Trustees**

Mark Sain, *President*, Michele Bria, *Vice-President*, Teresa Mercado, *Financial Secretary*,  
Ald. Milele Coggs, Matthew Kowalski, Michael Morgan, Felicia Saffold, Ald. Scott Spiker,  
Ald. Larresa Taylor, Sup. Kathleen Vincent, Venice Williams, Joan Johnson, *Secretary*,  
Rebecca Schweisberger, *Secretary's Assistant* (414) 286-3021

***The Milwaukee Public Library Board of Trustees is an informed, dedicated group of citizens who represent a cross-section of the city of Milwaukee and are committed to supporting, developing, and advancing the library for the benefit of all residents of Milwaukee and others throughout Milwaukee County, the State of Wisconsin, and beyond. In their role as advocates and advisors, they serve the library's many patrons, its staff, the common good of the community, and this critical and enduring institution.***

*Persons engaged in lobbying as defined in s. 305-43-4 of the Milwaukee Code of Ordinances are required to register with the City Clerk's Office License Division. More information is available at [www.milwaukee.gov/lobby](http://www.milwaukee.gov/lobby) or by calling (414) 286-2238.*

*Please be advised that members of the Milwaukee Common Council who are also members of this body will be in attendance at this meeting. In addition, Common Council members who are not members of this body may attend this meeting to participate or to gather information. A quorum of the Common Council or any of its standing committees may be present, but no formal Common Council action will be taken at this meeting.*

**PLEASE NOTE:** Upon reasonable notice, efforts will be made to accommodate the needs of individuals with disabilities. Make requests to the Library Director's Office at (414)286-3021, 286-2794 (FAX) or Central Library, 814 W. Wisconsin Ave., Milwaukee, WI 53233 Attn: Accommodation Request.

**MILWAUKEE PUBLIC LIBRARY BOARD OF TRUSTEES**

**REGULAR MEETING  
MINUTES**

**Tuesday, April 22, 2025**

**Central Library  
Rotary Club of Milwaukee Community Room  
814 W. Wisconsin Avenue  
Milwaukee, WI 53233**

**PRESENT:** Mark Sain, Michele Bria, Teresa Mercado, Ald. Milele Coggs, Matthew Kowalski, Michael Morgan, Felicia Saffold, Ald. Scott Spiker, Ald. Larresa Taylor, Joan Johnson

**EXCUSED:** Sup. Kathleen Vincent, Venice Williams

**STAFF:** Kelly Bolter, Chantel Clark, Melissa Howard, Yves LaPierre, Tammy Mays, Jennifer Meyer-Stearns, Karli Pederson, Rebecca Schweisberger, Kelly Wochinske

**OTHERS**

**PRESENT:** Budget & Management Division: Nathaniel Haack  
Poet Laureate Shelly Conley

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President Mark Sain called the meeting of the Milwaukee Public Library Board of Trustees to order at 4:06 p.m. on April 22, 2025. Trustees Coggs, Morgan, Saffold, and Spiker participated by conference phone. Meeting began without quorum; quorum was reached at 4:20 p.m.

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**BOARD DEVELOPMENT**

1. **Poet Laureate Introduction.** Kelly Bolter, Programming Librarian, introduced MPL Poet Laureate Shelly Conley. Ms. Bolter reviewed the new Poet Laureate application and selection process. Ms. Conley's term will extend through 2026. Ms. Conley gave a brief overview of her background and performed a recitation of her poem "Assassination". Informational item.

**CONSENT AGENDA**

2. **Regular Board Meeting Minutes March 25, 2025**
3. **Committee Reports**
  - a. Building & Development Committee Meeting Minutes – April 3, 2025
4. **Administrative Reports**
  - a. Financial Report
  - b. Library Director's Reports
  - c. Statistics
5. **Revised 2025 MPL Board Meeting Schedule.**

President Sain asked the Board if any items should be removed from the Consent Agenda presented as attachment A, pages 3-26 of the agenda. Hearing no objection, the Consent Agenda was approved.

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## REPORTS

6. **Finance & Personnel Committee Meeting.** Committee Chair Teresa Mercado presented the action items from the April 22, 2024 meeting, listed as Attachment B of the agenda.
- **Financial Statements and Auditors' Review.** The Committee received the auditors' report from Brandon Panka, of Reilly, Penner, and Benton, LLP. The auditors issued an unqualified opinion with no recommendations. Trustee Mercado moved to accept the report and place it on file; Trustee Bria seconded. Motion passed.
  - **Contract Awards – Wisconsin Talking Book & Braille Library (WTBBL) and Interlibrary Loan Service (ILS).** The Committee received a request to execute the WTBBL and ILS contracts, pending review from the City Attorney's Office. Trustee Mercado moved to approve the 2025 WTBBL and ILS contracts. Trustee Kowalski seconded. Motion passed.
  - **Check Signature Policy Update.** Deputy Library Director Jennifer Meyer-Stearns presented the updated policy. The revisions bring the policy into alignment with current practices and clarify the process. Under the revised policy, the Library Director will be the primary check signer. The Deputy Library Director and Associate Directors are authorized to sign checks in the Director's absence. Checks in the amount up to \$15,000 may be signed by these authorized staff. Checks for an amount over \$15,000 will require a separate form to be signed by the MPL Board President or Financial Secretary. Trustee Mercado moved to approve the revised policy as presented; Trustee Bria seconded. Motion passed.
  - **Meeting Space Revenue Allocation Proposal.** Deputy Library Director Jennifer Meyer-Stearns requested approval to hold meeting space rental income in the MPL Trust & Gift account. The funds will supplement City funding to update meeting spaces. MPL estimates revenue of \$5,000-\$6,000 per year. Trustee Mercado moved to authorize MPL to hold meeting space rental income in the MPL Trust & Gift account; Trustee Taylor seconded. Motion passed.
7. **Milwaukee County Federated Library System (MCFLS) Board Meeting.** Library Director Joan Johnson reported on the April 14, 2025 meeting.
- **Library Directors Advisory Council (LDAC) Highlights:** Per Executive Order, staff at the Institute for Museum and Library Services (IMLS) were placed on administrative leave. Institutions nationwide are impacted as IMLS is not able to administer grants and other funding. The Department of Public Instruction is MPL's point of contact for IMLS. Ben Miller, Director of the DPI Library Services Team, stated the DPI is not yet directly impacted and the funding they oversee has not been rescinded. In response to the threat to libraries and funding, a new statewide marketing campaign has been created to promote the value of libraries. The campaign website is: [www.mywisconsinlibrary.org](http://www.mywisconsinlibrary.org). MCFLS Executive Director Steve Hesser is the group's chair. The campaign goal is to provide consistent messaging throughout the state. Libraries can use the campaign language and marketing for social media posts and a postcard campaign.
  - **Member retreat:** On July 17<sup>th</sup> MCFLS will host a gathering for all member directors. The retreat will begin with a formal presentation and an afternoon session will focus on staff management, budget, performance management, and working with boards.
  - **Cataloging:** – MPL staff member Emily Vieyra presented a comprehensive report on the annual cataloging audit. The report highlighted the high-level expertise that MPL staff brings to the MCFLS system.
  - **CountyCat:** As part of the Executive Orders, Library of Congress (LoC) subject headings have been changed to reflect the preferences of the current administration, including changes to Gulf of

Mexico and Mount Denali to Gulf of America and Mount McKinley, respectively. MPL and MCFLS follow the LoC subject heading guidelines. To ensure patrons are able to find items under either name, MCFLS is adding local subject headings to include Gulf of Mexico and Mount Denali.

- **Clean up patron database:** MCFLS uses an application called Patron Point to send communications to patrons. To improve the function of Patron Point and other applications, MCFLS is considering removing invalid or obsolete records from its patron database. MCFLS is seeking a legal opinion to determine whether or not the state statute of limitations on debt collection applies to library fines. Records cannot be deleted until it is determined if records with debts over 6 years old can be deleted. This item will be presented to the MCFLS Board for decision at a future meeting.
- **MPL/MCFLS lease agreement:** The MCFLS Board approved the lease agreement between MPL and MCFLS. The lease amount is \$95,000 and includes office space, the sorting room, and parking spaces in the garage.

Informational item.

8. **Urban Libraries Council (ULC) Update.** Trustee Michele Bria presented an update on the ULC Executive Board activities. In February, ULC held a 2-day retreat in La Jolla, California. The retreat was focused on the vision and growth of ULC as an organization. Much of the discussion focused on the current political climate and its effect on library services. ULC continues to advocate on behalf of libraries, highlighting the importance of libraries and their role as non-partisan resources for communities in both the U.S. and Canada. ULC equips library leaders with advocacy tools, offers staff training on pathways to library leadership, and support local boards in their role as ambassadors for the library. ULC is reviewing the membership dues model. ULC is working to identify potential national corporate partnerships to request support and create opportunities to grow library systems. Informational item.

#### **OLD BUSINESS**

9. **Broadband Access Update.** Library Director Joan Johnson presented an update on the broadband access project. MPL worked with a pro bono attorney and completed the legal due diligence to prepare a Request for Proposal (RFP). The RFP was issued in January 2025 and received no bids. The project was renamed and the RFP was reissued on April 3, 2025 and is due on May 1<sup>st</sup>. If an acceptable bid is received, Director Johnson will seek contract award approval at the June Board meeting. Informational item.

10. **Martin Luther King Branch Redevelopment Update.** – REMOVED FROM AGENDA

11. **Closing Remarks.** Pres. Sain reminded Trustees to contact the Library Director's Office if they are not able to attend a meeting. President Sain gave thanks to Trustee Bria for chairing meetings during his absence. MPL will host a poetry open mic on April 26<sup>th</sup> at East branch and a teen poetry open mic night will be held at Mitchell Street branch on April 28<sup>th</sup>. Director Johnson shared information about a very successful chicken-keeping program that was hosted at Atkinson branch and complimented Branch Manager Joy Zanders on offering programs that meet community needs.

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With no further business, the Milwaukee Public Library Board of Trustees meeting of April 22, 2025 was adjourned at 5:14 p.m.

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**MILWAUKEE PUBLIC LIBRARY  
BOARD OF TRUSTEES  
FINANCE & PERSONNEL COMMITTEE  
MINUTES**

**Tuesday, April 22, 2025**

**Video Conference via Microsoft Teams**

**PRESENT:** Teresa Mercado, Ald. Milele Coggs, Matt Kowalski (Alternate), Felicia Saffold, Ald. Scott Spiker, Joan Johnson

**EXCUSED:** Venice Williams

**OTHERS**

**PRESENT:** MPL: Chantel Clark, Molly Fonk, Sarah Leszczynski, Tammy Mays Wilder, Rebecca Schweisberger  
Budget and Policy Division: Nathaniel Haack  
Reilly, Penner & Benton LLP: Brandon Panka  
US Bank: Richard Romero, Wayne Sattler

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Chair Teresa Mercado called the meeting of the Board of Trustees Finance & Personnel Committee to order at 8:03 a.m. on Tuesday, April 22, 2025. All Trustees and presenters participated by video conference.

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1. **Committee Meeting Minutes Review.** The Committee reviewed the minutes from the January 28, 2025 meeting. Trustee moved to approve the minutes and Trustee seconded. Motion passed.
2. **Financial Statements and Auditors' Report.** The Trustees received the Milwaukee Public Library Trust Fund Audited Financial Statements for the year ending December 31, 2024. Mr. Brandon Panka of Reilly, Penner & Benton LLP reviewed the auditors' report and management letter. The auditors issued an unmodified opinion of the MPL Trust Fund financial statements and all fund balances continue to be positive. Trustee Saffold moved to approve the financial statements and independent auditors' report of the MPL trust fund for calendar year 2024 as presented. Trustee Spiker seconded. Motion passed.
3. **Quarterly Review of Fund Investments.** On behalf of U.S. Bank, Vice President and Senior Relationship Manager Richard Romero thanked the Board for the opportunity to serve as the investment manager. Wayne Sattler, Senior Vice President & Managing Director with PFM Asset Management LLC (a subsidiary of U.S. Bancorp Asset Management / U.S. Bank N.A.) presented an update on the quarterly investment reports. Tariffs and rising inflation rates have caused significant fluctuations in the market. US Bank analysts anticipate negative growth over the next few quarters, followed by modest growth going forward. In response, the fund managers will slightly reduce equities and move funds into fixed income. Mr. Sattler reviewed MPL's investment policy and no changes were recommended. Informational item.
4. **Quarterly Library Report of the Internal Control of the MPL Trust and Gift Funds.** The Internal Controls Memo for first quarter 2025 was listed as Attachment B of the agenda. Deputy Library Director Jennifer Meyer-Stearns reported all internal control processes were followed and there were no accounting issues. Informational item.
5. **Contract Awards – Wisconsin Talking Book and Braille Library and Interlibrary Loan Service.** Library Business Manager Sarah Leszczynski presented the 2025 WTBBL and ILS contracts for approval and sought approval to execute the agreements, pending review by the City Attorney's Office. The contracts were listed as Attachment C of the agenda. These grants are received

through the State of Wisconsin Department of Public Instruction. The grants will fund WTBBL and ILS programs for 1 year, beginning July 1st. The WTBBL grant amount is just under \$1.2M, which is a 14% increase over the current grant period. The ILS grant amount is \$227,000, which is a 15% increase. Trustee Spiker moved to authorize MPL to execute the agreements pending review by the City Attorney's Office; Trustee Saffold seconded. Motion passed.

6. **Check Signature Policy Update.** Library Business Manager Sarah Leszczynski presented the updated policy, listed as Attachment D of the agenda. The revisions bring the policy into alignment with current practices and clarify the process. Under the revised policy, the Library Director will be the primary check signer. The Deputy Library Director and Associate Directors are authorized to sign checks in the Director's absence. Checks in the amount up to \$15,000 may be signed by these authorized staff. Checks for an amount over \$15,000 will require a separate form to be signed by the MPL Board President or Financial Secretary. Trustee Spiker moved to approve the policy as presented; Trustee Saffold seconded. Motion passed.
7. **Meeting Space Revenue Allocation Proposal.** Deputy Library Director Jennifer Meyer-Stearns requested approval to hold meeting space rental income in the MPL Trust & Gift account. A memo detailing the request was listed as Attachment E of the agenda. Revenue from rentals will supplement City funding to update meeting spaces. MPL estimates revenue of \$5,000-\$6,000 per year. Trustee Saffold moved to authorize MPL to hold all meeting space rental income in the MPL Trust & Gift account, effective January 1, 2025. Trustee Spiker seconded. Motion passed.
8. **Grant and Federal Funding Status.** Library Business Manager Sarah Leszczynski reviewed a list of MPL's grant funding streams and how they could be impacted by recent Executive Orders. The list was listed as Attachment F of the agenda. Discussion ensued about AmeriCorps funding, administered by Serve Wisconsin and managed by the MPL Foundation. Informational item.

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The meeting of the Library Board's Finance & Personnel Committee was adjourned at 8:58 a.m. on Tuesday, April 22, 2025.

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**MILWAUKEE PUBLIC LIBRARY  
BOARD OF TRUSTEES  
BUILDING & DEVELOPMENT COMMITTEE  
MINUTES**

ATTACHMENT A - P. 6 of 31  
MPL CONSENT AGENDA  
*2b. Building & Development Committee  
Meeting Minutes - 05/01/2025*  
P. 8

**Thursday, May 1, 2025**

**Video Conference via Microsoft Teams**

**PRESENT:** Matt Kowalski, Teresa Mercado, Mark Sain, Larresa Taylor, Jennifer Meyer-Stearns  
(Secretary's designee)

**EXCUSED:** Michael Morgan, Joan Johnson

**STAFF:** MPL: Chantel Clark, Melissa Howard, Yves LaPierre, Tammy Mays Wilder, Karli Pederson,  
Marian Royal, Rebecca Schweisberger, PJ Woboril

**OTHER:** Budget & Policy Division: Nathaniel Haack

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Presiding Chair Matt Kowalski called the MPL Board of Trustees Building and Development Committee meeting to order at 8:01 a.m. on May 1, 2025 with a quorum present. All Trustees and presenters participated by video conference.

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1. **Approval of the Minutes.** Chair Kowalski entertained a motion to accept the minutes from the April 3, 2025 meeting. Trustee Taylor moved approval of the minutes and Trustee Mercado seconded. Motion passed.
2. **Project Inventory and Status Report.** Library Facilities Manager PJ Woboril provided an update of ongoing projects, listed as Attachment B of the agenda.

Current:

- **MPL Central Fire Alarm Design.** MPL is working with IBC Engineering, Zimmerman Architects, and the Concord Group to update several older fire alarm systems at Central Library. The project is in the final stages of specs and front-end documents. A Request for Proposal (RFP) will be issued in the next few weeks and project work is expected to begin in early June.
- **Central Roof Replacement.** Replacement of the remaining roof areas that were not replaced over the last several years, including a large section over the 3<sup>rd</sup> floor. The final phase of the project began on April 28<sup>th</sup>. The new roof will have a 20-year warranty.
- **Central C. Cure 9000 Upgrade (Access Control).** C. Cure 9000 is a security and badge access system that will replace P2000, the software currently used by MPL. Johnson Controls is creating the new software system and is working with MPL's IT department to install a new server. Completion is expected before the end of the year.
- **Zablocki Roof Replacement.** The Zablocki roof replacement project was held during the COVID-19 pandemic and recently went out to bid. MPL accepted a bid for \$102,000 from JRT Roofing, who worked on the Central Library roof replacement. Work is expected to begin the week of May 5<sup>th</sup>.



Future projects include:

- Systemwide Facilities Condition Assessment. This was last done in 2017. MPL will engage an outside firm to review each building to assess the condition, age, and maintenance plans. Detailed reports will be issued and will include recommendations for maintenance schedules.
- Masonry Repair Study. The study will include the Central Library dome, copper eagles, and the 8<sup>th</sup> Street terrace.
- Zablocki window replacement. The Zablocki windows have reached end-of-life and need replacement. Window replacement will begin after the roof replacement is completed.

Informational item.

3. **Martin Luther King Branch Redevelopment**. Library Construction Projects Manager Yves LaPierre presented an update on the project, which is attached at the end of these minutes. MPL and the development team are finalizing updates to the development agreement, including firm dates for commencement of the canopy repair work as well as the entry and right-of-way repair work. Interior construction of the library portion is progressing well and completion is expected in June. Informational item.
4. **MPL Capital Request**. Deputy Library Director Jennifer Meyer-Stearns shared a brief summary of the library's capital request for 2026, which is attached at the end of these minutes. The request focuses on high-priority projects, including repairs to the Central Library dome and copper eagles, which are becoming structurally compromised. MPL worked with the Department of Public Works (DPW) to conduct an engineering review of the windows at Zablocki branch and estimate for replacement costs. The estimated cost was higher than expected and MPL is seeking a second estimate. MPL received funding to replace 2 geothermal heat pumps at Washington Park branch this year; however, the remaining 13 pumps also need to be replaced. MPL requested funding for the renovation of Capitol branch, including a new roof, windows, and HVAC systems. MPL will continue updating security and IT systems, including cameras, door controls, and alarm systems. The capital request will be further informed by the facilities condition assessment and MPL will continue working with the Budget Analyst on the library's request in relation to available City funds. Informational item.
5. **Central Library Tenant Update**. Deputy Library Director Jennifer Meyer-Stearns shared the MPL Central Library Lessees and Rate Survey, attached at the end of these minutes, and provided a brief overview of the tenant services and lease terms. The survey was prepared by Library Construction Projects Manager Yves LaPierre and Library Business Manager Sarah Leszczynski. The values of MPL's spaces were calculated based on a lease rate survey of the same section of downtown Milwaukee. Several tenants have partnered with MPL for decades and do not currently pay for the leased space as they provide significant benefit to the community. MPL receives funding from the State for the space and staff of the Wisconsin Talking Book and Braille Library (WTBBL). The space vacated by the MPL Foundation (MPLF) will be used for MPL staff. The MPL Bookseller and Friends provide funding to the library through MPLF. MPL leases space to the Milwaukee County Genealogical Society and the Wisconsin Marine Historical Society for material storage and volunteer work space. The former café vendor exited in early 2025 and MPL is working with the Friends group to identify next steps for replacement. MPL worked with the City Attorney's Office to develop a standard lease agreement. The tenant list and lease information will be shared with the Board annually. Informational item.

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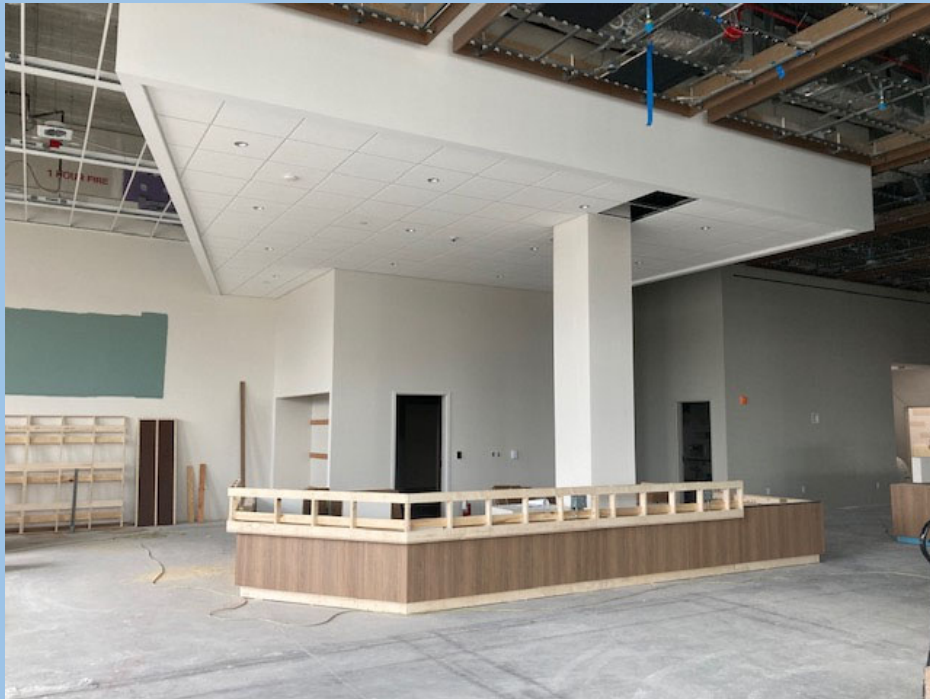
The meeting of the Milwaukee Public Library Board's Building & Development Committee was adjourned at 8:50 a.m. on May 1, 2025.

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## Milwaukee Public Library, MLK Branch Project



## Milwaukee Public Library, Building and Development Committee, May 1, 2025



2<sup>nd</sup> Amendment,  
Canopy date,  
Entry and ROW  
June Scherrer Done

**2026 CAPITAL REQUEST**

	<b>Request</b>	<b>Definition</b>
		Masonry and infrastructure repairs to the historically significant dome,
<b>Central Library</b>	\$3,200,000	roof support, and copper eagles
<b>Branch Improvements</b>	\$2,250,000	Washington Park geo-thermal heat pumps and Zablocki windows
<b>Branch Remodel</b>	\$3,500,000	Capitol over two years - based on Concord estimates
		Ongoing - 90 + analog cameras, general need to keep up varied security
<b>Library IT &amp; Security</b>	\$75,000	systems
	<b>\$9,025,000</b>	

Name	Square Footage	Current Rate/YR	Start Date	\$12/SF/YR
Audio Braille and Library Enhancement	2129	\$0.00	1/1/1995	\$25,548.00
Wisconsin Talking Book and Braille Library	3219	\$117,800.00	1/1/1994	\$38,628.00
Milwaukee County Federated Libraray System	4830	\$95,387.00	1/1/1970	\$57,960.00
Prior Foundation Space - Admin	915	\$0.00	1/1/1991	\$10,980.00 Vacated March 2025
Bookseller - Friends	4450	\$0.00	1/1/1975	\$53,400.00 Bookfellows
Mil. County Genealogical Society	300	\$0.00	1/1/1935	\$3,600.00
Wisconsin Marine Historical Society	300	\$0.00	1/1/1959	\$3,600.00
Future Café?				

**MILWAUKEE PUBLIC LIBRARY  
BOARD OF TRUSTEES  
SERVICES & PROGRAMS COMMITTEE  
MINUTES**

ATTACHMENT B - P. 12 of 31  
*2c. Library Services & Programs  
Committee Meeting - 05/07/25*  
P. 14

**Wednesday, May 7, 2025**

**Video Conference via Microsoft Teams**

**PRESENT:** Milele Coggs, Michael Morgan, Felicia Saffold, Kathleen Vincent, Chantel Clark  
(Secretary's designee)

**EXCUSED:** Joan Johnson

**STAFF:** MPL: Melissa Howard, Dan Keeley, Carlos Lopez, Tammy Mays Wilder, Joey McMahon,  
Jennifer Meyer-Stearns, Karli Pederson, Marian Royal, Rebecca Schweisberger

**OTHERS**

**PRESENT:** Budget & Policy Division: Nathaniel Haack

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Chair Coggs called the MPL Board of Trustees Services and Programs Committee meeting to order at 4:10 p.m. on Wednesday, May 7, 2025 with a quorum present. All Trustees and presenters participated by video conference.

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1. **Committee Meeting Minutes Review.** Chair Coggs entertained a motion to accept the minutes from the March 5, 2025 meeting, listed as Attachment A of the agenda. Trustee Vincent moved to approve the minutes; Trustee Morgan seconded. Motion passed.
2. **Safety Report.** Library Security Manager Carlos Lopez reported on security incident in quarter 1 of 2025. Overall, security incidents are down 10% compared to quarter 1 2024. Informational item.
3. **Welcome Card.** Associate Library Director Karli Pederson shared a proposal to implement a Welcome Library Card, listed as Attachment B of the agenda. Associate Director Pederson shared an overview of the initiative's methodology, benefits, and key features. The implementation strategy includes engaging Milwaukee County Federated Library System (MCFLS) staff and member libraries to build support, bring the proposal to the Library Directors Advisory Committee, and refine levels of access and member library participation. Long-term implications include updates to MPL's policy and procedure, updates to the MCFLS integrated library system, and staff training. MPL will continue working with MCFLS and member libraries to cultivate consensus across member libraries. Informational item.
4. **OneMKE 2025.** Communications and Community Engagement Director Melissa Howard shared an update on the OneMKE project. The presentation is attached at the end of these minutes. MPL partnered with Newaukee to implement the initiative in April 2024. Activities included resident engagement, voter education, and book giveaways. In 2025, MPL will hire a civic engagement manager, provide civic engagement materials, and will serve as the liaison for other City departments. Informational item.
5. **Fines Free Proposal.** Associate Library Director Chantel Clark shared information about the potential for MPL to remove fines as a way to increase access to library resources. A short-term task force has been convened to research this topic, identify challenges and benefits to going fines free, and make a recommendation for Library Administration and the Board's consideration. MPL staff is reviewing fine and fee data, impacts to card holders, financial impacts, and will conduct research of peer institutions. Informational item.

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The meeting of the Milwaukee Public Library Board's Services & Programs Committee was adjourned at 4:36 p.m. on May 7, 2025.

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**ONE MKE**

## ***2024 CAMPAIGN RECAP***



# What is One MKE?

- Mayoral initiative to increase overall civic engagement in Milwaukee
- Grant funded project launched by the Milwaukee Public Library in collaboration with the Milwaukee Election Commission and community partners.
  - CC file #231757—March 19, 2024
- Nonpartisan project funded through Cities Forward with marketing and outreach support provided by Newaukee.



# Main Partners



# Our Coalition Partners

African American Chamber of Commerce of Wisconsin, Inc.  
Alverno College  
Center Street Economic Development Corp, Inc.  
Center Street Marketplace, BID #39  
Clarke Square Neighborhood Initiative  
Common Ground  
Community First, INC  
Dominican Center  
East Capitol, BID #25  
Employ Milwaukee Inc.  
Friends of Sherman Park  
Fond Du Lac, BID #54  
Granville, BID #48  
Greater Milwaukee Committee  
Harambee Neighborhood Improvement District  
Havenwoods Neighborhood Partnership  
Historic Milwaukee  
Historic Third Ward Association  
Hmong WI Chamber of Commerce  
Housing Authority of the City of Milwaukee  
Interfaith Conference of Greater Milwaukee  
Latino Chamber of Commerce of SEW  
La Gente Art Gallery  
Liliput Records

Lindsay Heights Neighborhood Development District  
Milwaukee Area Technical College  
Milwaukee Artist Resource Network  
Milwaukee Downtown, BID #21  
Milwaukee LGBT Community Center  
Mitchell Street, BID #4  
Near West Side Partners  
Neighborhood House of Milwaukee  
Pizza to the Polls  
Rooted & Rising - Washington Park (formerly UMCS)  
Safe & Sound  
Sherman Park Grocery  
The Culture Plug (Hyfin/Radio MKE)  
The Sherman Park Community Association Inc.  
The Village Association, Inc.  
True Skool, Inc.  
Uptown Crossing, BID #16  
Villard, BID #19  
Westtown Association  
Wisconsin Business Leaders for Democracy  
Wisconsin LGBT Chamber of Commerce  
Word of Hope Ministries, Inc.  
Zocalo Food Park

# Campaign Overview

- Regularly engage with Milwaukee residents to inform them about a diverse range of social service programs offered by local, state, and federal governments.
- Outreach at community events and additional communications including city mail inserts, text messaging, and email communications.
- Encourage all residents to vote by providing non-partisan, easy-to-understand resources.
- Create a culture of being a Milwaukee resident that is civically engaged through continual engagement and a visibility campaign.

# Successes to Date

JUNE 19 - DECEMBER 31



ENGAGEMENTS WITH RESIDENTS

**118,959**



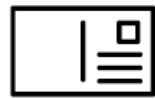
BACKPACKS DISTRIBUTED

**3,500**



CITY MAILING INSERTS  
SENT TO HOUSEHOLDS

**160,660**



PLEDGE-TO-VOTE POSTCARDS  
COLLECTED

**6,504**



UNIQUE VISITORS TO  
ONEMKE.ORG WEBSITE

**49.9K**



CIVICS RELATED CHILDREN'S  
BOOKS DISTRIBUTED

**2,400**



RESIDENTS SCREENED FOR  
BENEFIT ELIGIBILITY

**623**



# OF COMMUNITY EVENTS  
ATTENDED & SUPPORTED

**275**



VOTER RESOURCE MATERIALS  
DISTRIBUTED TO 43 SITES  
THROUGHOUT THE CITY

**30,000**





# VOTING STARTS WITH REGISTRATION

Be ready to vote on  
**TUESDAY, NOVEMBER 5, 2024.**

## STEP 1: CHECK YOUR REGISTRATION STATUS

Go to [myvote.wi.gov](https://myvote.wi.gov) to check your registration status.

You'll need to register or update your information if:

- Have not previously registered to vote in Wisconsin
- Moved or changed your name
- Haven't voted for over 4 years

## STEP 2: THREE EASY WAYS TO REGISTER

1. **Online** at [myvote.wi.gov](https://myvote.wi.gov)

2. **By Mail** - scan QR code for voter registration application form →



3. **In-Person:**

- At any Milwaukee Public Library (until Oct. 16)
- At any Early Voting Center (Oct. 22-Nov.1)
- At your polling place on Election Day (Nov. 5)

**ARE YOU REGISTERED?**



# YOUR GUIDE TO VOTING LOCATIONS

## IN-PERSON ABSENTEE VOTING CENTERS TUESDAY, OCTOBER 22 - SUNDAY, NOVEMBER 3

**American Serb Hall** 5101 W. Oklahoma Ave.

Weekdays: 9am-7pm • Saturdays: 10am-2pm • Sundays: Noon-4pm

**Capitol Drive Voting Center** 6001 W. Capitol Dr.

Weekdays: 9am-7pm • Saturdays: 10am-2pm • Sundays: Noon-4pm

**Clinton Rose Senior Center** 3045 N. Dr. Martin Luther King Dr.

Weekdays: Noon-5pm • Saturdays: 10am-2pm

**Good Hope Library** 7715 W. Good Hope Rd.

Mon & Tues: 12:30-7:30pm • Wed, Thurs, Fri: 10:30am-5:30pm •  
Sat: 9:30am-4:30pm • Sun: 1:30-4:30pm

**Milwaukee Area Technical College S Building** 700 W. State St. Room S114

Weekdays: 10am-6pm • Saturdays: 10am-2pm

**Mitchell Library** 906 W. Historic Mitchell St.

Mon & Tues: 12:30pm-7:30pm • Wed, Thurs, Fri: 10:30am-5:30pm • Sat: 9:30am-4:30pm

**Tippecanoe Library** 3912 S. Howell Ave.

Mon & Tues: 12:30-7:30pm • Wed, Thurs, Fri: 10:30am-5:30pm •  
Sat: 9:30am-4:30pm • Sun: 1:30-4:30pm

**UW-Milwaukee Zelazo Center** 2419 E. Kenwood Blvd.

Weekdays: 9am-5pm • Sat & Sun, Oct. 26 & 27: 10am-2pm • Fri, Nov. 1st, 9am-7pm

**Washington Park Library** 2121 N. Sherman Blvd.

Mon & Tues: 12:30pm-7:30pm • Wed, Thurs, Fri: 10:30am-5:30pm • Sat: 9:30am-4:30pm

**Zeidler Municipal Building** 841 N. Broadway Ave.

Weekdays: 9am-7pm • Saturdays: 10am-2pm • Sundays: Noon-4pm

## ELECTION DAY

TUESDAY, NOVEMBER 5, 2024

Find your polling place and  
see what's on your ballot:

**MYVOTE.WI.GOV**



## QUESTIONS?

CALL: (414) 286-VOTE (8683)

EMAIL: [voterinfo@milwaukee.gov](mailto:voterinfo@milwaukee.gov)

VISIT: [myvote.wi.gov](https://myvote.wi.gov)



ATTACHMENT B - P. 20 of 31

2c. Library Services & Programs Committee  
Meeting - 05/07/25

P. 22





**ONE MKE**

# SOY VOTANTE DE MILWAUKEE

**EL 5 DE NOVIEMBRE DE 2024**




**INFORMACIÓN DE VOTACIÓN:**  
onemke.org




**ONE MKE**

# CIA MILWAUKEE UA HAUJ LWM PAB KOJ

**One MKE muab kev pab yooj yim rau koj:**

-  AMus nrhiav tau cov kev pab cuam hauv zej zog, xeev thiab tsoom fwm teb chaws kom **pab tau koj tseg tau nyiaj thiab pab koj noj qab haus huv zoo dua qub**
-  Aus koom cov koob tsheej kom ntsib lwm cov pej xeev thiab **muaj kev koom tes rau hauv koj lub zej zog**
-  Mus kawm **txog cov kev pab pov ntauwv xaiv tsa kom ncaj ncees uas tsis tuaj ib roog nom tswv tog**



**MUS NRHIAV KOM  
PAUB KOJ COV TXIAJ  
NTSIS NTAWM  
ONEMKE.ORG**



Cov ntauwv no muaj ua lwm hom rau cov neeg xiam oob qhab thaum thov txog.  
Thov hu rau 414-286-3475, ADACoordinator@milwaukee.gov.



One MKE yog ib qho kev sib koom tes ua kom muaj kev ncaj ncees uas tsis tuaj ib roog nom tswv tog caj las ntawm Milwaukee Public Library, Milwaukee Election Commission, Cities Forward thiab NEWaukee, nrog rau ntau tshaj 40 cov koom haum hauv lub zej zog Milwaukee.



**ONE MKE**

Quiénes somos Eventos Servicios Información para votar Español [Inscríbese para recibir actualizaciones](#)



**Somos ONE MKE.**

**Quiénes somos**

One MKE es una coalición no partidista dirigida por la Biblioteca Pública de Milwaukee, la

[Inscríbese para recibir](#)

**Milwaukee Public Library  
Financial Report  
April 30, 2025**

**2025**

**City Revenues**

	Budget	Received to date	% Received
<i>Additional City Appropriation</i>	\$ 32,920,741	\$ 11,006,652	33.4%
<i>Fines</i>	\$ 94,000	\$ 22,287	23.7%
<i>Lost Materials, etc.</i>	\$ 50,000	\$ 24,946	49.9%
<i>MCFLS Contracts</i>	\$ 927,000	\$ 19,396	2.1%
<b>Total City Appropriation</b>	<b>\$ 33,991,741</b>	<b>\$ 11,073,281</b>	<b>32.6%</b>

**City Expenses**

**Salaries & Benefits**

	Budget	Spent to date	% Spent
<i>Salaries</i>	\$ 19,539,425	\$ 6,378,722	32.6%
<i>Fringe Benefits</i>	\$ 8,792,742	\$ 2,417,361	27.5%
<b>Total</b>	<b>\$ 28,332,167</b>	<b>\$ 8,796,083</b>	<b>31.0%</b>

**Supplies & Services**

	Budget	Spent to date	% Spent
<i>General Office Expense</i>	\$ 115,700	\$ 25,186	21.8%
<i>Tools &amp; Machinery Parts</i>	\$ -	\$ -	100.0%
<i>Construction Supplies</i>	\$ 18,000	\$ 6,105	33.9%
<i>Energy</i>	\$ 886,500	\$ 237,720	26.8%
<i>Other Operating Supplies</i>	\$ 278,956	\$ 76,059	27.3%
<i>Vehicle Rental</i>	\$ 9,200	\$ 1,617	17.6%
<i>Non-Vehicle Equipment Rental</i>	\$ 13,200	\$ -	0.0%
<i>Professional Services</i>	\$ 86,600	\$ 55,629	64.2%
<i>Information Technology Services</i>	\$ 357,920	\$ 248,187	69.3%
<i>Property Services</i>	\$ 861,520	\$ 640,411	74.3%
<i>Infrastructure Services</i>	\$ 46,000	\$ 100,634	218.8%
<i>Vehicle Repair Services</i>	\$ -	\$ -	100.0%
<i>Other Operating Services</i>	\$ 152,112	\$ 27,780	18.3%
<i>Reimburse Other Departments</i>	\$ 111,900	\$ (384)	-0.3%
<b>Total</b>	<b>\$ 2,937,608</b>	<b>\$ 1,418,944</b>	<b>48.3%</b>

**Equipment**

	Budget	Spent to date	% Spent
<i>Library Materials</i>	\$ 1,885,500	\$ 612,143	32.5%
<i>IT Equipment</i>	\$ 220,824	\$ 33,686	15.3%
<i>Other</i>	\$ 337,042	\$ 120,354	35.7%
<b>Total</b>	<b>\$ 2,443,366</b>	<b>\$ 766,183</b>	<b>31.4%</b>

**Other Departmental Appropriation**

	Budget	Spent to date	% Spent
<i>Villard Square Property Payment</i>	\$ 11,600	\$ -	0.0%
<i>East Property Payment</i>	\$ 9,133	\$ 9,133	100.0%
<i>Mitchell Street Property Payment</i>	\$ 76,000	\$ 13,500	17.8%
<i>Good Hope Property Payment</i>	\$ 42,967	\$ -	0.0%
<i>Contingent Energy Financing</i>	\$ 138,900	\$ 69,438	50.0%
<b>Total</b>	<b>\$ 278,600</b>	<b>\$ 92,071</b>	<b>33.0%</b>

**ARPA Revenue Replacement**

	Budget	Spent to date	% Spent
<i>Operating Expenses</i>	\$ -	\$ -	100.0%
<b>Total</b>	<b>\$ -</b>	<b>\$ -</b>	<b>100.0%</b>
<b>Total City Expenses</b>	<b>\$ 33,991,741</b>	<b>\$ 11,073,281</b>	<b>32.6%</b>

**2024**

	Budget	Received to date	% Received
	\$ 28,574,827	\$ 10,263,596	35.9%
	\$ 114,500	\$ 28,923	25.3%
	\$ 66,500	\$ 16,677	25.1%
	\$ 819,000	\$ 228,007	27.8%
	<b>\$ 29,574,827</b>	<b>\$ 10,537,203</b>	<b>35.6%</b>

	Budget	Spent to date	% Spent
	\$ 5,973,002	\$ 2,067,062	34.6%
	\$ 2,687,851	\$ 888,113	33.0%
	<b>\$ 8,660,853</b>	<b>\$ 2,955,175</b>	<b>34.1%</b>

	Budget	Spent to date	% Spent
	\$ 121,803	\$ 21,723	17.8%
	\$ -	\$ -	100.0%
	\$ 16,500	\$ 14,288	86.6%
	\$ 847,800	\$ 202,073	23.8%
	\$ 252,947	\$ 79,681	31.5%
	\$ 8,800	\$ 2,175	24.7%
	\$ 14,700	\$ 5,827	39.6%
	\$ 146,600	\$ 74,762	51.0%
	\$ 442,552	\$ 312,184	70.5%
	\$ 1,418,038	\$ 628,019	44.3%
	\$ 38,500	\$ 125,029	324.8%
	\$ -	\$ -	100.0%
	\$ 146,239	\$ 39,516	27.0%
	\$ 108,600	\$ (2,979)	-2.7%
	<b>\$ 3,563,079</b>	<b>\$ 1,502,298</b>	<b>42.2%</b>

	Budget	Spent to date	% Spent
	\$ 1,827,000	\$ 639,995	35.0%
	\$ 522,032	\$ 155,456	29.8%
	\$ 86,563	\$ 13,220	15.3%
	<b>\$ 2,435,595</b>	<b>\$ 808,671</b>	<b>33.2%</b>

	Budget	Spent to date	% Spent
	\$ 9,800	\$ -	0.0%
	\$ 5,300	\$ 5,300	0.0%
	\$ 74,000	\$ 27,000	36.5%
	\$ 45,000	\$ -	0.0%
	\$ 136,200	\$ 68,076	50.0%
	<b>\$ 270,300</b>	<b>\$ 100,376</b>	<b>37.1%</b>

	Budget	Spent to date	% Spent
	\$ 14,645,000	\$ 5,170,683	35.3%
	<b>\$ 14,645,000</b>	<b>\$ 5,170,683</b>	<b>35.3%</b>
	<b>\$ 29,574,827</b>	<b>\$ 10,537,203</b>	<b>35.6%</b>



**Milwaukee Public Library  
Financial Report  
April 30, 2025**

**2025**

**2024**

**Additional Funding Sources**

**Grants**

	Budget	Spent to date	% Spent
<i>WTBBL Jul '24 - Jun '25</i>	\$ 1,033,100	\$ 856,521	82.9%
<i>ILL Jul '24 - Jun '25</i>	\$ 233,550	\$ 135,741	58.1%
<b>Total</b>	<b>\$ 1,266,650</b>	<b>\$ 992,262</b>	<b>78.3%</b>

	Budget	Spent to date	% Spent
	\$ 1,004,300	\$ 765,839	76.3%
	\$ 223,350	\$ 87,076	39.0%
	<b>\$ 1,227,650</b>	<b>\$ 852,915</b>	<b>69.5%</b>

**Trust Funds**

	Budget	Spent to date	% Spent
<i>Materials</i>	\$ 167,000	\$ 102,604	61.4%
<i>Programming</i>	\$ 53,000	\$ 7,936	15.0%
<i>Training</i>	\$ 26,000	\$ 7,493	28.8%
<i>Marketing</i>	\$ 45,000	\$ -	0.0%
<i>Contingency</i>	\$ 5,000	\$ -	0.0%
<i>Board Development</i>	\$ 5,000	\$ 384	7.7%
<i>Strehlow 50+</i>	\$ 8,000	\$ 1,024	12.8%
<i>Staffing Study</i>	\$ -	\$ -	100.0%
<b>Total</b>	<b>\$ 309,000</b>	<b>\$ 119,441</b>	<b>38.7%</b>

	Budget	Spent to date	% Spent
	\$ 134,000	\$ 70,996	53.0%
	\$ 42,000	\$ 8,806	21.0%
	\$ 20,000	\$ 1,983	9.9%
	\$ 35,000	\$ -	0.0%
	\$ 4,000	\$ -	0.0%
	\$ 4,000	\$ 384	9.6%
	\$ 29,756	\$ 1,653	5.6%
	\$ 28,000	\$ -	0.0%
	<b>\$ 296,756</b>	<b>\$ 83,822</b>	<b>28.2%</b>

**Foundation Contributions**

	Budget	Spent to date	% Spent
<i>Materials</i>	\$ 279,497	\$ 11,029	3.9%
<i>Programming</i>	\$ 1,661,809	\$ 303,996	18.3%
<b>Total</b>	<b>\$ 1,941,306</b>	<b>\$ 315,025</b>	<b>16.2%</b>

	Budget	Spent to date	% Spent
	\$ 225,817	\$ 17,040	7.5%
	\$ 1,437,759	\$ 190,814	13.3%
	<b>\$ 1,663,576</b>	<b>\$ 207,854</b>	<b>12.5%</b>

**Investments**

*U.S. Bank National Assoc. Commercial Paper (rated A1) confirmation #327155794 dated 04/23/25 and maturing 05/23/25 at a rate of 1.75%...\$290,000*

## Director's Report

May 2025

Johnson welcomed a crowd of nearly 200 at the Annual Friends of the Milwaukee Public Library Literary Luncheon. Featured author Nancy Johnson presented a compelling talk on the importance of libraries and skillfully weaved her comments about the current state of affairs with selections from her 2025 book, "People of Means."

Johnson and team members spent considerable time preparing and presenting for the Mayor's Action Plan Progress report. The team developed new and approved ways to present and display the data being tracked for each goal. The new graphs better illustrated what happened in the first quarter and were very well received by Mayor Johnson and his team.

Johnson is periodically supporting staff in reviewing various partnerships and joined them in meetings with leadership from the Wisconsin Academy of Sciences, Arts and Letters. She also attended conflict resolution training sponsored by the City's Office of Community Wellness and Safety, which they developed with MPL team members to specifically address library situation. All MPL staff were scheduled to attend one of five mandatory training sessions over a two-week period. This partnership has slowly been developing into a valuable and supportive relationship.

Johnson attended a community event with other Rotary members in support of Bernie's Book Bank Event, a fundraiser to support their mission to deliver age-appropriate, high-interest, and culturally relevant books to children in under-resourced communities. Johnson also supported the Wisconsin Marine Historical Society by attending its annual Spring dinner and auction. Johnson continues to participate in meetings with the Milwaukee Public Library Foundation Board, Westtown Association Board, the Rotary Club of Milwaukee programs and Board meetings, and the Milwaukee County Federated Library System's (MCFLS) monthly Board meetings. The weekly meetings of the Schools, Health and Library Broadband Coalition, and the Urban Libraries Council are ongoing.

Summary of **VIRTUAL and IN-PERSON PROGRAMS:**

### **MPL HELPS PEOPLE READ**

Beyond Books: Exploring Archives: "414 Day": April 14 (4/14) is known as Milwaukee Day because it has the same digits as the city's area code. Celebrate all things Milwaukee by exploring the historical collections at Central Library in the Art, Music, and Recreation Room (AMR). Special Collections Librarian Sarah Finn organized and curated the materials for the event that drew an enthusiastic group of patrons from a range of ages and backgrounds, as well as professionals from Milwaukee Historical Society, MIAD, and UWM. "Beyond Books: Exploring Archives" happens every other month with a different theme and staff lead from Milwaukee Public Library's Special Collections and Archives Department. We have gained a following of patrons for these open house style programs who are interested in the unique resources at Central Library. Attendance: 65

### **MPL HELPS PEOPLE LEARN**

Crossing the Line: Our Past and Our Future. For Fair Housing Month in April, the Washington Park Branch Library hosted the traveling display Crossing the Line: The Milwaukee Fair Housing Marches of 1967-1968. To celebrate this exhibit, Kelly Bolter and Nick Censoprano hosted an informative panel discussion on the Milwaukee Fair Housing Marches. This discussion featured Mia Phifer (Senior Education, Collections, &

Outreach Coordinator at America's Black Holocaust Museum), Dr. Derek G. Handley (assistant professor at the University of Wisconsin-Milwaukee), Reggie Jackson (an award-winning journalist and local historian), and Dr. Robert S. Smith (Professor of History and Director of the Center for Urban Research, Teaching & Outreach at Marquette University). Attendance: 25

Earth Month Programming. Earth Day was April 22, but programming was blooming at MPL throughout April! Our year-round green programming is rooted in our commitment to educating our community on the importance of sustainability and environmental stewardship. Total attendance at 5 programs: 61

Container Gardens for Sun and Shade [Virtual]. Presented by gardening expert and author Melinda Myers. Container gardens add color and seasonal interest to balconies, patios, decks, and even your front entrance. No matter where they're placed, matching the plants to the available sunlight will help boost success. Gardening expert and author Melinda Myers will share container plant combinations for both sun-filled and shady locations. Plus, she'll provide tips on the proper care to keep them looking good all season long. Sponsored by We Energies. Attendance: 470

### **MPL HELPS PEOPLE CONNECT**

Milwaukee Zine Fest. Founded in 2008, MZF is an annual explosion of zine-focused wonder in the form of a boisterous festival featuring 124 vendors from across the country. It's always free to attend, and always super fun for all ages. The single day event is held at the Milwaukee Central Library, and packed with opportunities to explore and purchase various forms of DIY and independent publishing presented by diverse artists, writers, illustrators, photographers, poets--and more! The festival also features hands on experiences and workshops throughout the day for attendees of all ages, backgrounds, and experiences. Attendance: 3,277

Deaf Stories Project Storyslam. The 6th Annual Deaf Stories Project StorySlam was an evening of true and personal stories told by Deaf community members. Storytellers shared stories on the night's theme, which was "Sorry Not Sorry" this year. ASL to Spoken English Interpretation was provided for hearing attendees. The event was a wonderful gathering of a diverse group of Deaf community members, along with hearing attendees of all ages, backgrounds, and experiences. Attendance: 157

Movie Night at Center Street. Center Street hosts a monthly movie night. LRA Harold Johnson reported that the audience was entirely adults this time, so he was able to show the horror film "Night Shift," which was a big hit with the audience, and several adults mentioned they were looking forward to more movie night programming. Harold and Corey popped popcorn and all the adults seemed really pumped to have a fun free movie night! Attendance: 7

Total attendance for 132 programs: 5,289

### **CLCR-EOS-Youth & YA**

#### **MPL HELPS PEOPLE READ**

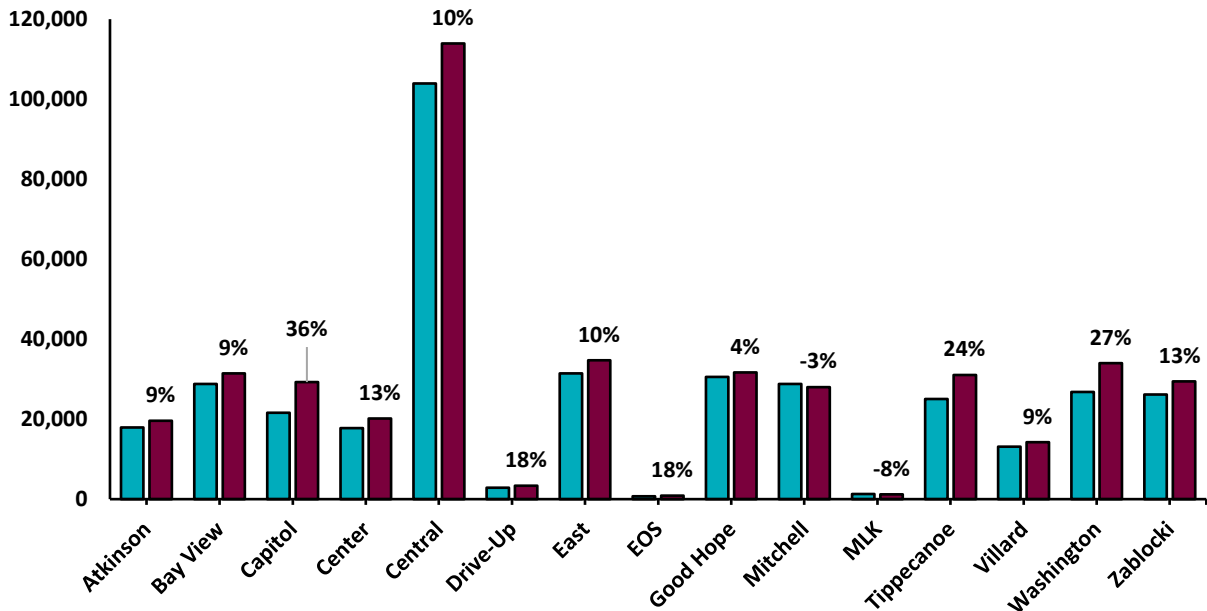
HIPPY Program Support: MPL partners with COA Youth & Family Centers to support families enrolled in the HIPPY (Home Instruction for Parents of Preschool Youth) program. For over 5 years, staff from Education & Outreach Services and the Central Library Children's Room have attended regular events (virtual and in-person) to promote parents supporting their children's early literacy skill development through a Daily High Five of talking, singing, reading, playing and writing experiences. This program year,

MPL staff attended a series of HIPPY Family Engagement Nights to set up a mini-MPL with a comfortable reading area and a library of books to check out. Children browse books and enjoy impromptu read-alouds while families have library cards created or renewed. Families can check out, renew, and return materials during the events. These interactions support the HIPPY program's work to connect families with resources that support the positive growth of their young children. In addition, HIPPY students have their graduation at MPL's Centennial Hall every May. Programs: 8. Attendance: 840

#### **MPL HELPS PEOPLE CONNECT**

Teen Poetry Fest: Mitchell Street branch hosted Teen Poetry Fest on Monday, April 28<sup>th</sup> to conclude the Teen Poetry Contest and celebrate the winners. MPL's Teen Advisory Board sponsors the Teen Poetry Contest and Teen Poetry Fest each spring. Teens citywide were encouraged to submit original poems for the contest. The open mic was emceed by poet Brit Nicole and Milwaukee Youth Poet Laureate Aleena Ahmed. Patrons in the audience were encouraged to read their work, resulting in an hour-long open mic where teens and adults connected through poetry. Poetry-themed activity stations and refreshments by coffee truck Ay! Chihuahua were offered throughout the evening. Attendance: 65

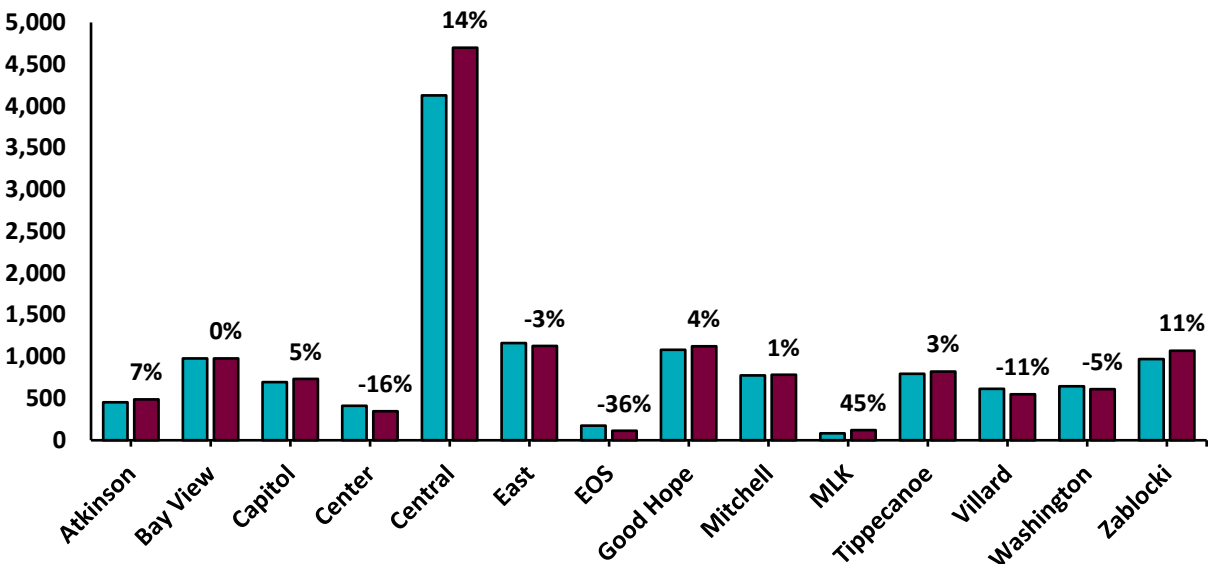
## Patron Visits \*



Jan-Apr 2024: 376,856 Jan-Apr 2025: 422,953 (+12%)

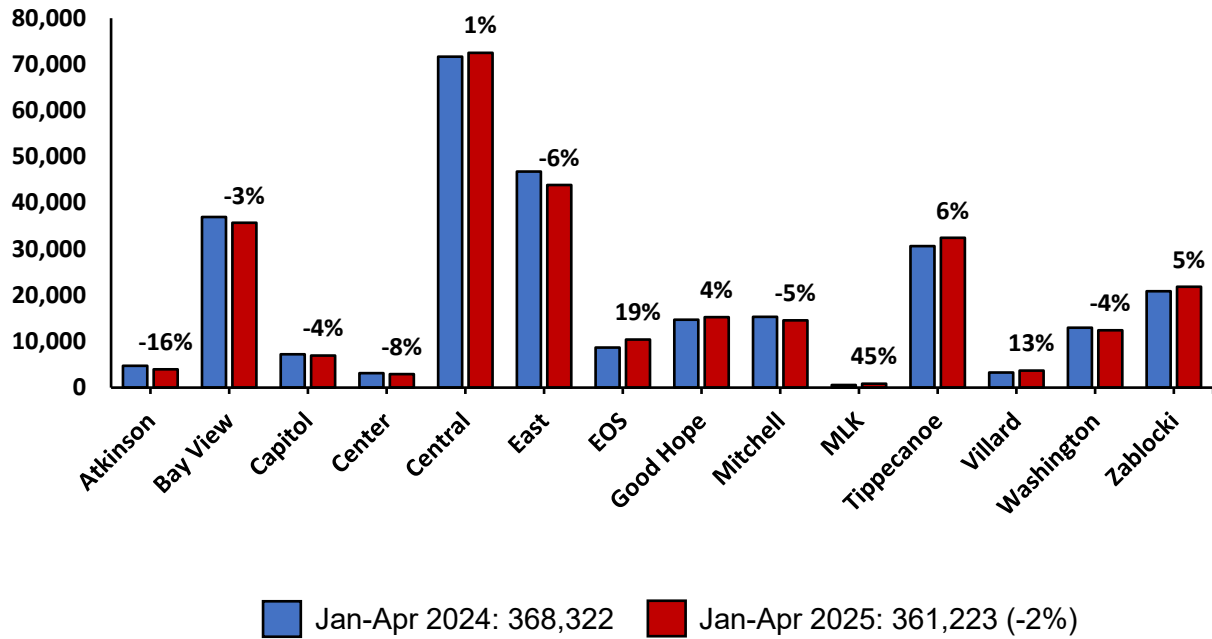
*\*This graph incorporates a correction in the number of patron visits for the Capitol branch, which was under-reported by 8,607 in the January-March 2025 data.*

## Registration

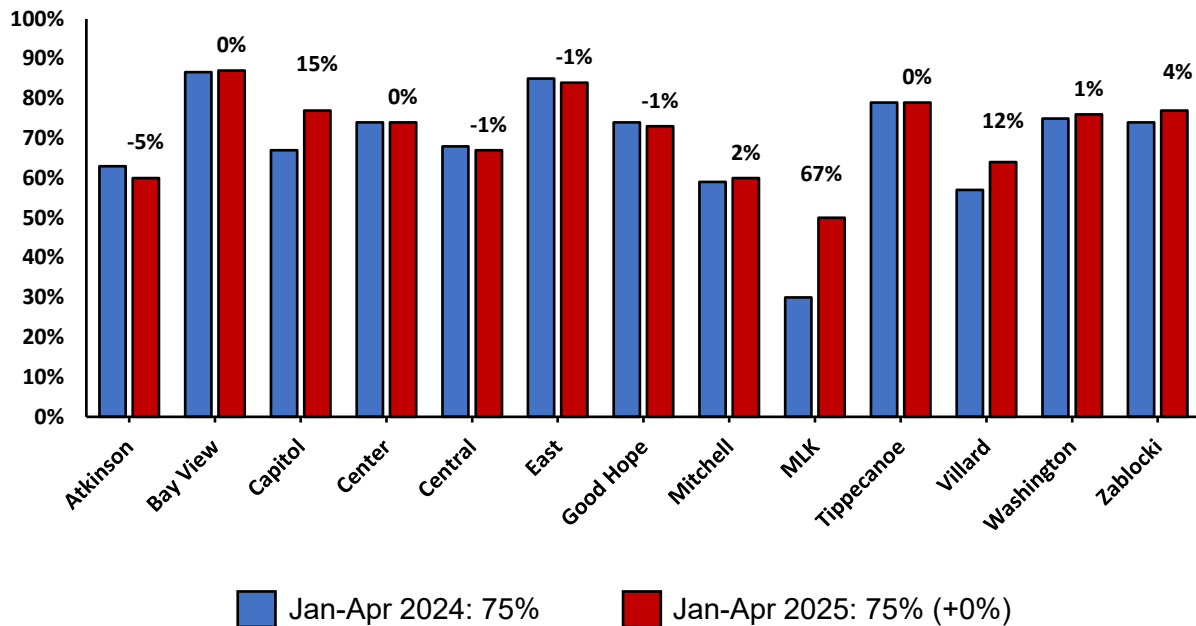


Jan-Apr 2024: 12,983 Jan-Apr 2025: 13,575 (+5%)

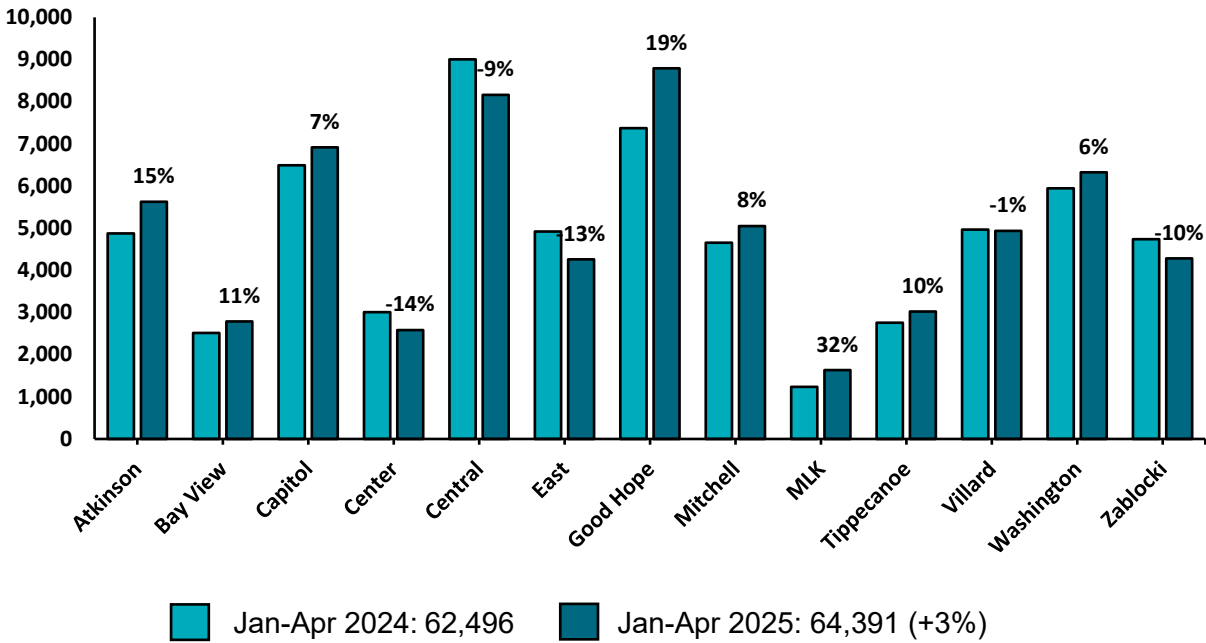
## Traditional Circulation



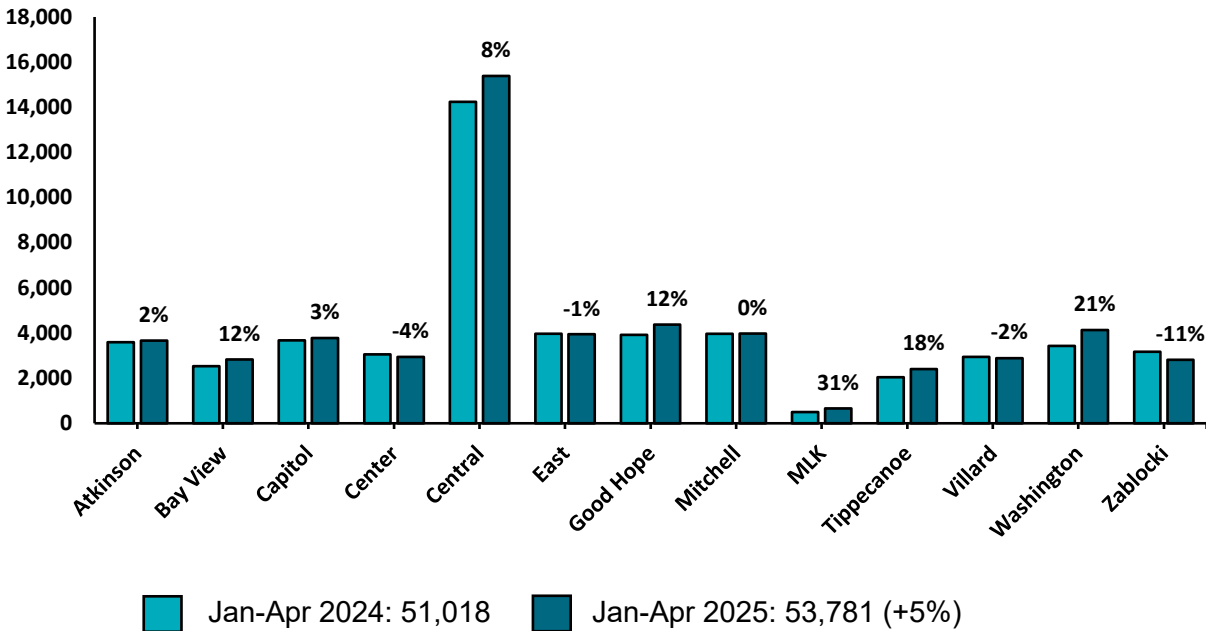
## Self-Checkout



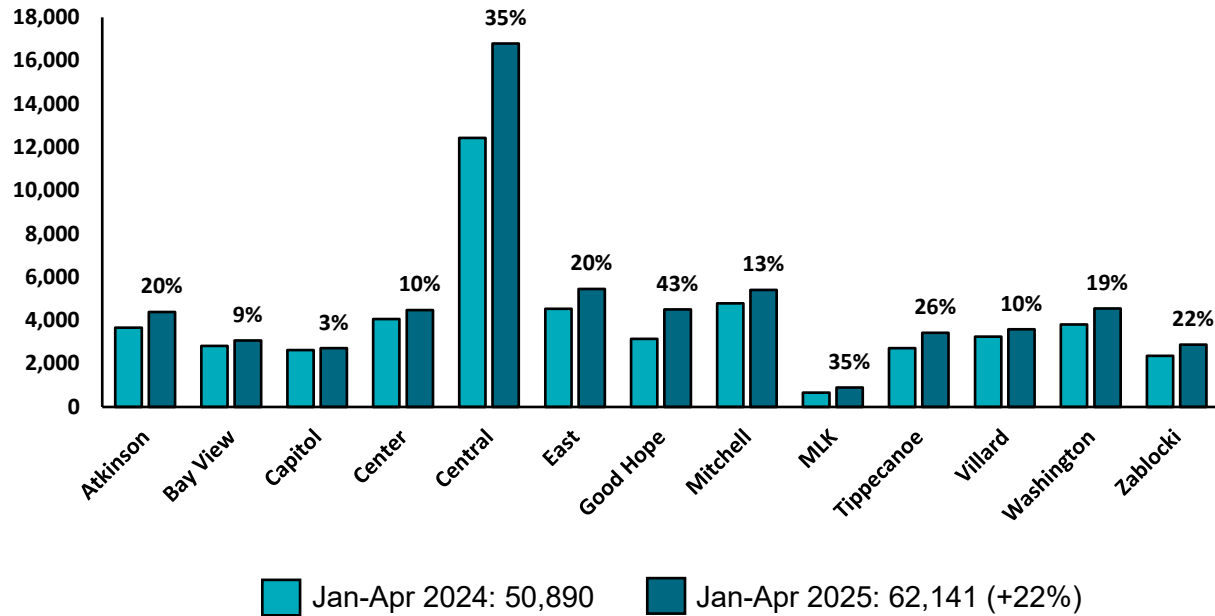
## Print/Copy/Fax/Scan Jobs



## Public Computer Sessions



## Wi-Fi Unique Users



## Ready Reference



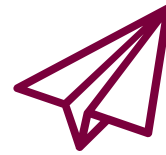
13,087

Call Sessions  
Last Year: 16,452



587

Chat Sessions  
Last Year: 565



13

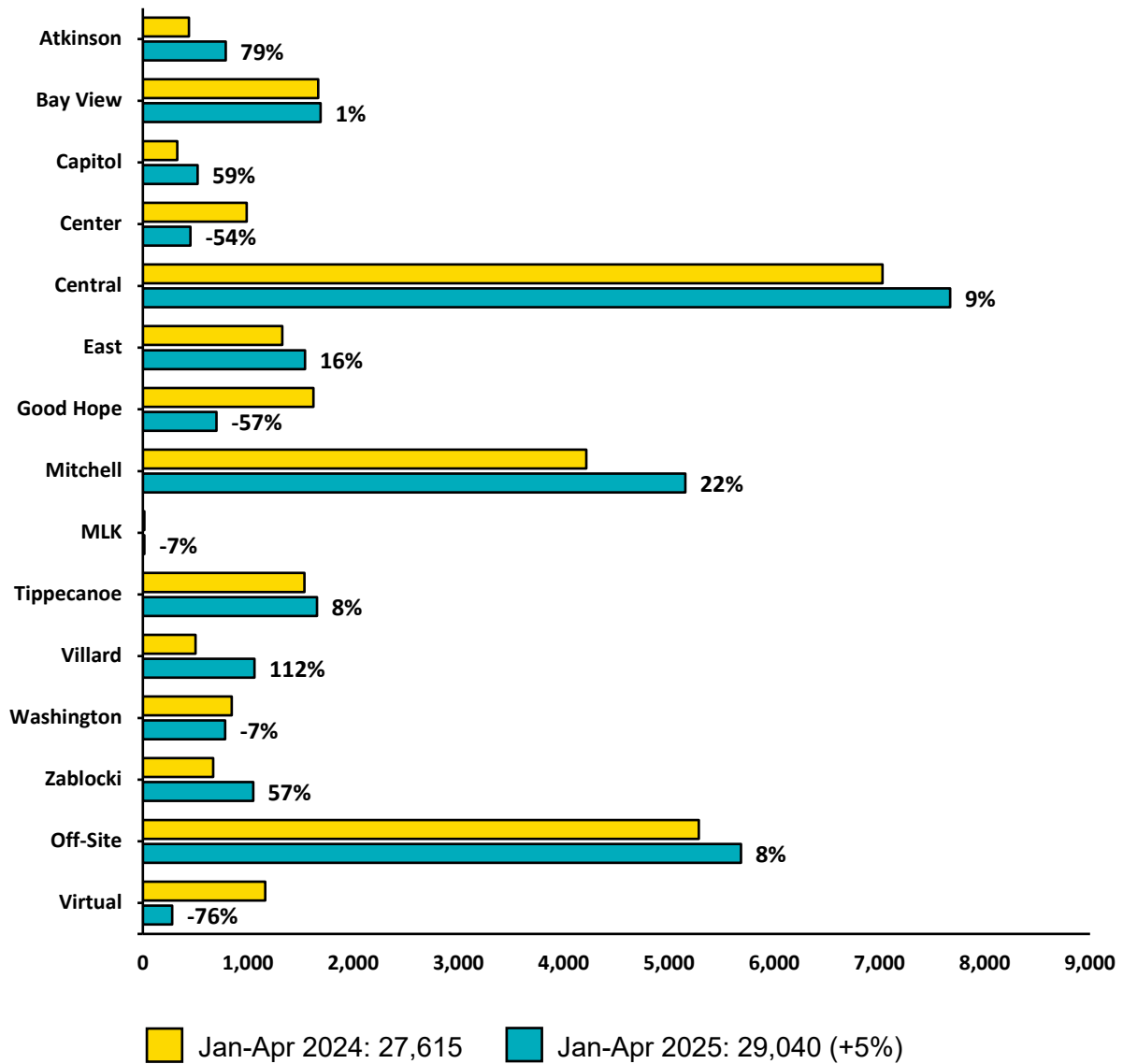
Email Sessions  
Last Year: 17

## eCirculation

Platform	Jan-Apr 2024	Jan-Apr 2025	Change
Freegal Music	44,503	53,799	+21%
Hoopla Digital	27,500	22,714	-17%
Kanopy	9,287	12,523	+35%
OverDrive	158,284	170,735	+8%
<b>Total</b>	<b>239,574</b>	<b>259,771</b>	<b>+8%</b>



## Program Attendance



# **MILWAUKEE PUBLIC LIBRARY BOARD OF TRUSTEES BYLAWS**

## **ARTICLE I – NAME AND PURPOSE**

The name of this organization shall be the “Milwaukee Public Library,” hereinafter referred to as the “Library.” The purpose of the Library shall be to provide informational, cultural, educational and recreational resources and services to the people of Milwaukee, and through contract, to other appropriate political jurisdictions or organizations.

## **ARTICLE II – GOVERNANCE**

**Section 1.** The general management, regulation and control of the Library shall be vested in a Board of Trustees, hereinafter referred to as the “Board,” constituted under Chapter 43 of the Wisconsin Statutes.

**Section 2.** All members of the Board shall be appointed and serve terms as defined in Chapter 43 and are eligible for reappointment. Each shall serve until a replacement is named. In the event of a vacancy, the President shall make a request in writing to the appointing authority, that a replacement be made. The Mayor and Library Director will be copied on the correspondence. As determined by the appointing authority, Trustees may be permitted to serve after their term ends to allow for transitional periods.

**Section 3.** The Board shall have powers as defined under Chapter 43 of the Wisconsin Statutes.

**Section 4.** Trustees may be asked to resign for cause upon a two-thirds approval of the Board. Whenever a member of the Board is unable to attend a scheduled Board or committee meeting, they should notify the secretary or the secretary’s administrative assistant to ensure their absence is excused. If the notification is not received, it will be considered an unexcused absence. The standard for attendance shall be 70%. Unexcused absences representing more than 30% of the Board and/or committee meetings shall be grounds for the Board’s Executive Committee to consider asking the trustee to resign. The attendance record is to be communicated annually to the Trustee and to the President as a matter of record. Continued failure to meet standard attendance requirements may be communicated to the appointing authority.

**Section 5.** Telephone and video conference calls among members of a governmental body fit within the definition of “meeting” subject to the Wisconsin Open Meetings Law. 69 Op. Att’y Gen. 143 (1980). A telephone or video conference call is acceptable as long as the appropriate notice is given and the conference call is made reasonably accessible to the public. It is the Board’s expectation that members of the Board attend meetings in person, but when unavoidable, they may participate in Board meetings via conference calls long as the meeting is properly noticed, and telephone participation is conducted using a speaker phone that allows all those physically present at the meeting to hear any comments made by the conference call participants, and allows those participants to hear what is being said by those physically present.

**Section 6.** All trustees shall serve without pay, but they may be reimbursed for any and all reasonable expenses incurred in the interest of the Library, including membership dues in Library organizations, conference attendance and necessary publications, when so authorized by the Board.

Section 7. Trustees selected as committee chairs will run the committee meeting and represent the committee at regular Board meetings.

### **ARTICLE III – OFFICERS**

**Section 1.** At the annual meeting in May of each even-numbered year the Board shall elect one of its members as president, who shall hold office for two years and shall preside at the meetings of the Board when present. The newly elected president will assume the position immediately following the vote. No one shall serve more than two consecutive terms as president. The president shall preside at all meetings of the Board, authorize calls for any special meetings, appoint all committees and fill any vacancies that may occur, execute all documents authorized by the Board and generally perform all duties associated with that office.

**Section 2.** At the same meeting the Board shall also elect for a term of two years a vice president from among its members. The newly elected vice president will assume the position immediately following the vote. The vice president shall perform the duties of the president in the absence of such officer. No one shall serve more than two consecutive terms as vice president. The vice president, in the event of the absence or disability of the president, or of a vacancy in that office, shall assume and perform the duties and functions of the president.

**Section 3.** At the same meeting the Board shall also elect for a term of two years a financial secretary who shall also be the chairperson of the Finance & Personnel Committee. The newly elected financial secretary will assume the position immediately following the vote. The financial secretary shall not have the authority to personally invest any Milwaukee Public Library funds. The financial secretary along with the Finance & Personnel Committee and Library Administration will review the performance of the investment broker, investment management firm, or banking institution at least quarterly and report their findings to the Milwaukee Public Library Board of Trustees. The financial secretary shall serve as chair of the Finance and Personnel Committee. Library Administration shall review monthly statements of the Trust Funds performance and present any items of note or concern to the financial secretary.

**Section 4.** The Library Director shall be ex-officio secretary of the Board. The Deputy Library Director shall serve as deputy Board secretary. The Library Director and the Deputy Library Director in this capacity shall be non-voting. The secretary shall keep a true and accurate record of all meetings of the Board, shall execute all documents authorized by the Board, shall issue notice of all regular and special meetings, and shall perform such other duties as are generally associated with that office.

**Section 9.** If a vacancy occurs in any office, a successor shall be elected and remain in office until the next annual election.

## ARTICLE IV – MEETINGS

**Section 1 – Regular Meetings.** Regular meetings of the Board shall be held at a minimum of six times per year. The date and hour for the regular meetings will be set at the Board's October meeting after the Common Council schedule is issued, but may be subject to change during the year subject to a majority approval of the Board, formal notification of all Board members and satisfaction of statutory requirements in conformity with the Wisconsin Open Meeting law.

**Section 2 – Special Meetings.** Special meetings may be called at the direction of the president, or called at the written request of five members, for the transaction of business as stated in the call for the meeting. Except in cases of emergency, at least 48 hours' notice shall be given. In no case may less than two hours' notice be given.

**Section 3 – Annual Meeting.** The annual meeting of the Board shall be held in May at such hour, date and place as the Board may determine.

**Section 4 – Notices.** Each member of the Board shall be notified of regular Board and committee meetings. Any member of the Board may attend and participate in discussion. In the event of an absence or vacancy, the Board President may appoint a substitute Trustee to the committee. The Board shall approve the temporary appointment.

**Section 5 – Open Meetings Law Compliance.** All Board meetings and all committee meetings shall be held in compliance with Wisconsin Open Meeting Law (Wisconsin Statutes Sections 19.81 to 19.98).

**Section 6 – Parliamentary Procedure.** The rules contained in *Robert's Rules of Order*, latest revised edition [or *The Standard Code of Parliamentary Procedure* by Alice F. Sturgis], shall govern the parliamentary procedure of the meetings, in all cases in which they are not inconsistent with these bylaws and any statutes applicable to this Board.

**Section 7 - Quorum.** A majority of filled seats on the board constitutes a quorum for the transaction of business as required by Wisconsin Statutes Section 43.54(1)(e).

## ARTICLE V – COMMITTEES

**Section 1 – Standing Committees.** There shall be five standing committees. The members of these committees shall be appointed annually by the President not later than the first meeting after the annual meeting in May, and shall serve for one year, or until their successors are appointed. All standing committee members must be sitting members of the current Board of Trustees.

**Executive Committee** consisting of four (4) members (the president, the vice-president, the financial secretary and the immediate past-president).

- The Executive Committee shall review any and all amendments to the Board's bylaws prior to action by the Board.
- The Executive Committee may meet between the meetings of the Board, shall act for the Board in implementing established policies and programs, and shall serve as the administrative arm of the Board. It shall have the power to fill vacancies for officers and members of the Executive

Committee; the persons so appointed are to be confirmed by a majority Board vote and are to serve until the following annual election.

- The Executive Committee shall meet with the Library Director annually in December to review achievements for the year and goals for the coming year.
- The MPL Board President or the President's designee will fill the designated seat on the MPL Foundation Board.

**Finance and Personnel Committee** consisting of five (5) members.

- The Finance & Personnel Committee may review the annual budget summary with the Library Director.
- The Finance & Personnel Committee shall review the performance of the trust fund investment advisor at least quarterly.
- The Finance & Personnel Committee shall hear appeals by regularly appointed employees who by notice of the Library Director have been removed, discharged or demoted, or have been suspended in excess of fifteen days or have received a second suspension for any period within six months of the first, provided they appeal in writing within three days from the time the notice is served upon the employee. No employee regularly appointed shall be removed, discharged, demoted or suspended except for just cause. The Finance and Personnel Committee shall follow the requirements of due process contained in Section 63.43 and 63.44 of the Wisconsin Statutes. (see MPL Board of Trustees Operating Guidelines).

**Innovation and Strategy Committee** consisting of five (5) members.

- The Innovation & Strategy Committee will explore long-term solutions and make recommendations to the Milwaukee Public Library Board of Trustees for strengthening the organization and improving the funding structure of the Milwaukee Public Library.

**Library Building and Development Committee** consisting of five (5) members.

- The Library Building and Development Committee shall recommend any changes in existing space needs, approve major alterations and, when appropriate construction of new facilities.

**Library Services and Programs Committee** consisting of five (5) members.

- The Library Services and Programs Committee shall review Library services and programs.
- The Library Services and Programs Committee shall hear written appeals from the community on issues related to Library services.

**Section 2 – Nominating Committee.** A nominating committee shall be appointed by the president three months prior to the annual May meeting of every even numbered year and shall present a slate of officers at the annual meeting. Additional nominations may be made from the floor at that time.

**Section 3 – Ad Hoc Committees.** The president shall appoint special committees as needed. Ad hoc committees for the study of special problems shall be appointed by the president, with the approval of the Board, to serve until the final report of the work for which they were appointed has been filed. These committees may also include staff and public representatives, as well as outside experts.

Ad hoc committees are advisory to, and not binding on, the Board of Trustees. Only sitting members of the current Board may serve as committee chairs.

**Section 4 – Non-voting positions.** Standing and special committees may include staff, public representatives, as well as outside experts. These individuals will be considered as ex-officio members. These shall be non-voting positions.

**Section 5 – Committee Quorum.** A majority of any committee and a minimum of three members shall constitute a quorum for the transaction of business under its supervision or referred to it.

**Section 6 – Power of the Committees.** No committee will have other than advisory powers unless, by suitable action of the Board it is granted specific power to act and a quorum of the Board is present.

## **ARTICLE VI – GENERAL**

**Section 1 – Bylaws Amendment.** The Milwaukee Public Library Board of Trustees Bylaws may be amended at any regular meeting of the Board, provided that the amendment has been submitted in writing to the full Board at least thirty days before the designated vote. Revised bylaws take affect at the end of the meeting at which they were adopted.

**Section 2 – Bylaws Review.** The Milwaukee Public Library Board of Trustees Bylaws will be reviewed by an Ad hoc committee every four years.

**Section 3 – Public Comment.** The board may hear public comment about particular concern or needs. The board should limit itself to answering basic questions from the public and place the matter on a future meeting agenda if additional discussion or deliberation on the issue is needed.

Although it is not required, the Wisconsin Open Meetings Law does permit a governmental body to set aside a portion of an open meeting as a public comment period. Wisconsin Statutes 19.83(2) and 19.84(2). Such a period must be included on the meeting notice. During such a period, the body may receive information from the public and may discuss any matter raised by the public. If a member of the public raises a subject that does not appear on the meeting notice, however, it is advisable to limit the discussion of that subject and to defer any extensive deliberation to a later meeting for which more specific notice can be given. In addition, the body may not take formal action on a subject raised in the public comment period, unless that subject is also identified in the meeting notice.

## **ARTICLE VII – RECORDS**

**Section 1.** The official records of the proceedings of the Board of Trustees and its committees shall be kept in the secretary's office and shall be open to public inspection and examination upon request. The secretary shall also serve as custodian of the Board's records.

**Section 2.** The Board of Trustees shall comply with Wisconsin Statutes which cover the open records law for public institutions.

## **ARTICLE VIII – LIBRARY DIRECTOR**

**Section 1.** The Mayor shall appoint a Library Director, Section 66.146 (1)(1), Wisconsin Statutes.

**Section 2.** The Library Director shall serve as the chief executive officer of the Library system, subject to the policies established by the Board, as well as Secretary ex-officio of the Board of Trustees. This shall be a non-voting position.

**Section 3.** The Library Director in keeping with the policies of the Board, shall be responsible for the operation of the library, its facilities, equipment, staffing, and collection, and for its financial operation within the limitations of the budgeted appropriation, for the efficiency of Library service to the public.

**Section 4.** It shall be the duty of the Library Director, as secretary of the Board of Trustees, to be present at meetings of the Board and of the committees. In the absence of the Library Director, the Deputy Library Director will act in this capacity.

## **ARTICLE IX – CONFLICT OF INTEREST**

**Section 1 – Prohibition to Contract or Bid.** Board members may not in their private capacity negotiate, bid for, or enter into a contract with the Milwaukee Public Library in which they have a direct or indirect financial interest.

**Section 2 - Recusal.** A Board member shall withdraw from Board discussion, deliberation, and vote on any matter in which the Board member, an immediate family member, or an organization with which the Board member is associated has a substantial financial interest.

**Section 3 – Avoidance of Influence.** A Board member may not receive anything of value that could reasonably be expected to influence their vote or other official action.

**Section 4 – Code of Ethics.** The City of Milwaukee Code of Ethics (Chapter 303, Milwaukee Code) is accessible on the official website of the City of Milwaukee: <https://city.milwaukee.gov/home>

## **ARTICLE X – REPRESENTATION**

Under City Charter the City Attorney shall represent the Board and defend the Board and its members in any legal action.

## **REVISIONS**

*Revisions to the Milwaukee Public Library Board of Trustee Bylaws prepared by the Milwaukee Public Library Board of Trustees Ad-Hoc Bylaws Committee October 28, 2008 through February 13, 2009.*

*Reviewed by the Deputy City Attorney on March 5, 2009.*

*Approved by the Milwaukee Public Library Board of Trustees at their March 17, 2009 meeting.*

*Revision to Article IV – Quorum, Section 1, approved by the Milwaukee Public Library Board of Trustees at their May 20, 2010 meeting.*

*Revisions to the Milwaukee Public Library Board of Trustee Bylaws prepared by the Milwaukee Public Library Board of Trustees Ad-Hoc Bylaws Committee, convened on December 17, 2018.*

*Approved by the Milwaukee Public Library Board of Trustees at their April 23, 2019 meeting.*

*Revised to permit participation in closed session discussion by telephone or video conference call.  
Clarified the date upon which newly elected officers assume their office. Submitted to the Milwaukee Public Library Board of Trustees at their May 26, 2020 meeting.*

*Article III, Section 3 revised to strike the statement ‘The financial secretary shall serve as chair of the Finance and Personnel Committee and shall receive monthly statements of the Trust Funds performance from the investment management firm.’ and add the statement ‘Library Administration shall review monthly statements of the Trust Funds performance and present any items of note or concern to the financial secretary.’ Submitted and approved by the Milwaukee Public Library Board of Trustees at their June 28, 2022 meeting.*